

1. Development of a comprehensive plan for freight and passenger rail service for the State, in coordination with federal rail service plans, and the existing national rail system.
2. The estimated cost of a comprehensive rail plan, and appropriate mechanisms, including federal, State, and local and private funding sources and bonds, to finance its implementation.
3. The benefits of expanding and upgrading rail passenger and freight service, the effect expanded service would have on economic development, tourism, and job creation, and the importance of rail expansion to the State ports, and across the State.
4. The cost and benefits of expanding passenger and freight rail service to the western and eastern areas of the State.
5. The need for more efficient, accessible and reliable rail service to military bases in the State.
6. The role and impact of short line railroads in the overall comprehensive rail plan of the State.
7. Ways to utilize and preserve unused or abandoned rail corridors for future rail needs.
8. The feasibility, cost, and benefits of establishing commuter rail service in the major urban areas of the State.
9. Issues related to the corridor to the North Carolina Railroad, and land and business owners located adjacent to the corridor.
10. Other passenger and freight related rail issues that the Committee identifies in the course of its study.

**Section 4.** The Committee shall meet upon the call of its Co-chairs. A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of its members.

**Section 5.** The Committee, while in discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and Article 5A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes.

**Section 6.** Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowance as provided in G.S. 120-3.1.

**Section 7.** The expenses of the Committee including per diem, subsistence, travel allowances for Committee members, and contracts for professional or consultant services shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of